

## **AGENDA ITEM VII B**

### **REQUEST TO OFFER EXISTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES**

#### **NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY**

##### **A.A. IN CULINARY ARTS**

###### **STAFF COMMENT**

Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures Section 2.12 - Delivery of Academic Programs Through Distance Learning Technologies requires state colleges and universities that propose to offer more than 50% of an existing degree program through distance learning technologies to first seek Board of Regents' approval before submitting a request for authorization through the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The policy states that the following planning and quality issues must be satisfactorily addressed: appropriateness to role, scope and mission; lack of unnecessary program duplication; consistency with the Desegregation Settlement Agreement; funding provisions of Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 (Letters of Intent); adequacy of infrastructure and resources; consistency of program design with that offered on campus; and appropriateness of the curricular format.

###### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

###### Planning Issues

This program is appropriate to the role, scope, and mission of the University. Program duplication is not a relevant issue; no other state university offers this program. The Desegregation Settlement Agreement does not make any provisions for the development of any similar and/or related programs at the state's predominantly black institutions of higher education. No additional state funding will be required to offer the program electronically.

###### Quality Issues

Program design replicates the on-campus program. All lecture courses in Culinary Arts required for this degree will be offered through electronic media (compressed video), general education coursework and a required externship excepted. The staff has queried the University further regarding the adequacy of technology and faculty expertise needed to offer this program of studies electronically. A response has not yet been received.

## **STAFF SUMMARY**

At the time of sending January meeting materials to the Board of Regents, the University had yet to respond to staff questions referred to above. It is expected that Nicholls' response will be received in time for the staff to prepare a complete staff summary and recommendation for consideration by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee at its meeting of January 24th.